NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

Proposed amendment submitted by:

RE-15-21-16

Name: Paul Morin

Date: January 5, 2016

Company /Organization: NH Home Builders Association

Address: 331 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229

Telephone: 603-529-6678 (o) 603-566-3224 (c) E-mail: paul@tarkka.com

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Applicable code: IRC 2015 Applicable code section: N1102

Current language (including section numbers and include prior adopted amendments):

N1102.4.1.2 Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and three air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8.

Check one:

___ Delete without substitution:

___ Delete section and substitute the following:

~~Show Line through material to be deleted.~~

___ Add new section to read as follows:

_X_ Revise section to read as follows:

Underline material to be added.

Proposed code language:

N1102.4.1.2 Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and ~~three~~ seven air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8.

Reason / Justification:

Air sealing of a residence to less than three air changes per hour would necessitate a mechanical air exchange system. This could be a heat/energy recovery ventilator which would add approximately $2,000 to $3,000 to the cost of an average size home. It could also be a less costly fan on a timer, but this would bring in unconditioned cold air during winter months which frustrates the purpose of this code which is aimed at energy efficiency. Having no mechanical ventilation at all, or if it were to be disabled by a homeowner, or if it simply fails in time, would lead to a dangerously unhealthy air situation at this level of envelope tightness.

The BCRB should work with the NH Home Builders Association to research what air tightness level can be required for energy efficiency purposes without triggering the need for mechanical ventilation, leaving this higher investment option to homeowners who wish to make such an investment.

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

If left unamended, this code would add $2,000 to $3,000 to the cost of an average size home, or would require a system between $700 and $1,000 plus the energy loss of unconditioned air that would have to be paid through higher energy bills.

For Building Code Review Board Use:

Not approved: _____ Approved: ✓ Approved with modifications: _____

Scheduled Hearing Date: 12 Feb 2016 Exhibit #: RE-15-21-116

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: 12 Feb 2016

Printed Name: Shawn G Bergeron SR